

STATE FY'99 REGIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RAP) APPROVED PROJECTS

For FY 1999, the General Assembly of Georgia allocated \$1,187,500 through the Department of Community Affairs to support regional economic development initiatives and \$500,000 through the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) for regional water and sewer facilities.

The twenty-one applications from 100 local governments involved as joint applicants competed for this year's RAP funds and requested a total of \$4,668,274 in assistance for regional economic development activities.

DCA and GEFA staff completed the difficult task of reviewing and ranking this year's applications. On April 7, 1999, Governor Barnes announced \$1,687,500 in grant awards for nine (9) RAP projects. Attached to this memorandum is a list of the nine projects that represent a diverse group of applicants and activities in the areas of regional water and wastewater facilities, regional industrial park development, business assistance initiatives, marketing proposals, and others. As with any competitive process, there were many good proposals whose projects we could not approve due to funding limitations.

The Department wishes to thank those who participated in the FY 99 RAP competition. We would also like to recognize all of the applicants for their efforts to develop regional strategies to stimulate economic development in their communities. We regret that funds were not sufficient to address all of the regional needs and opportunities identified in this year's applications, but RAP funds are available in FY 2000 and we look forward to another round of applications.

Applicant	Amount	Project Description
Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center	\$27,313	CGRDC proposes to develop, print, and distribute a travel activity game (the Coastal Georgia Game) in order to increase awareness of coastal Georgia's natural and historical resources and to promote ecological- and heritage-based tourism in the region.

Development Authority of Brooks, Colquitt & Thomas Counties	\$400,000	DABCT proposes to establish a new regional farmer's market in the Genesis Food Park on the West By-Pass near the CARMAR freezer facility and the Genesis Advanced Food and Technology Center in Thomasville, Georgia in order to promote growth and vertical integration of agriculture in southwest Georgia.
Gordon/Floyd Joint Development Authority	\$400,000	The GC-FC JDA proposes improvements for a regional industrial park along the Highway 53 growth corridor in the northwest Georgia, between the City of Rome and the City of Calhoun. RAP funds will be used for site improvements, street and access improvements, and flood and drainage facilities.
Joint Development Authority of Bibb, Monroe and Twiggs Counties	\$378,324	The JDA BMT proposes improvements for a regional industrial park on Interstate 75 in southern Monroe County. RAP funds will be used to assist with the construction of an elevated water storage tank to serve the park.
North Georgia Regional Development Center	\$32,147	NGRDC proposes to develop a market research study in conjunction with Georgia Tech to provide guidance in targeted advertising and in developing tourism assets. The project further proposes to utilize the results of the study to undertake several promotional and marketing projects designed to increase tourism in the region.
Northwest Georgia Joint Development Authority	\$75,000	RAP funds will be used to develop and implement a marketing program for the region. The NWGJDA proposes to perform a target market analysis for the region that will then guide the design and execution of a comprehensive marketing campaign.

Okefenokee Area Development Authority	\$311,479	The OADA proposes infrastructure improvements for a regional industrial park on US Highway 1 near Waycross in Ware County, Georgia. RAP funds will be used to construct new sewer facilities and for roadway improvements within the park.
Southwest Georgia Regional Development Authority	\$10,000	The SWGDA proposes to conduct a feasibility study to determine if a bioconversion industry would be beneficial for the region. RAP funds will be used to determine if a bioconversion processing facility is a viable alternative for solid waste in the region.
Ware County Board of Commissioners	\$53,237	Ware County, on behalf of Clinch and Charlton Counties and the City of Folkston, proposes to identify opportunities for the expansion of sustainable tourism in the Okefenokee Swamp region and to develop and implement a marketing campaign. RAP funds will be used to research and develop a tourism plan for the region.
Total	\$1,687,500	